Frequently Asked Questions as of 8/21

General

1. Why isn’t the School Board meeting in person?
The Board met in person at our July meeting, but there were few public participants. Realizing that public participation may in fact be easier by phone during these times, we elected to go back to phone meetings. In addition, we are restricting the use of our buildings in the evenings so that our facilities staff can clean, and to reduce contamination possibilities.

2. What is the deadline for selecting the all-remote model? Our deadline is now Friday, August 28th.

3. Can parents switch between virtual and in-person if their situation changes? Will the student have the same teacher in virtual instruction?

   We want to be as flexible as we can, but switching has staffing and space constraints. We are asking parents to make their decisions in periods: the first period is by August 28th; if you want to opt for remote-only instruction, you have to notify us by then. If you have opted for remote already, you will receive a confirmation email by then. After August 28th, the next period to request a change (from all virtual to in-person/hybrid or vice versa) will be October 2 for a November 2nd start date. If we can make the switch more quickly, we will.

4. I am sending my son to school. If he becomes ill or has to quarantine due to exposure, will he automatically be able to go virtual until he can return? Yes, but in different ways, depending on level. At the secondary level, he will just join the class virtually each day. At the elementary level, he will stay with his in-person cohort, and will be able to stay up to date on work posted through Google Classroom each day.

5. When will the District calendar be ready? Will blue days and green days be noted for middle school and high school? We will publish the electronic calendar by the last week in August. We are not printing a
full calendar this year because of the likelihood that we will have to make frequent changes. Blue and green days will be noted on the calendar.

6. **What are the staggered starting and dismissal times for each building? How will social distancing be managed entering and leaving the buildings?** The schedule is in the Reopening Plan document, and is posted below. Each building has establishing procedures for arrival and dismissal; these will be communicated by each principal.

7. **What is the schedule for the first week of school?**

   Below are the starting dates and schedule for the first week of school. You will also receive more detailed information from your building principals.

   **(Staff Only): Tuesday, 9/8 and Wednesday 9/9**

   *Half-day transition for students (in-person); day begins at regular time, ends three hours early (see times below and in question 6)*

   **Thursday - 9/10 First day for grades K,1,2 and BLUE Cohort 6-12**
   (Grades 3,4,5, and GREEN Cohort have no school)

   **Friday - 9/11 First Day for grades 3, 4, 5 and GREEN Cohort 6-12**
   (Grades K,1,2 and BLUE Cohort have no school)
Times (with staggered arrival and dismissals as per the previous question):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Instruction Begins</th>
<th>Instruction Ends</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lindell</td>
<td>9:10</td>
<td>12:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>9:10</td>
<td>12:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lido</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBMS</td>
<td>8:01</td>
<td>11:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBHS</td>
<td>7:55</td>
<td>11:50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PreK AM will meet on September 10, from 8:30-11:00
PreK PM will meet on September 11, from 11:30-2:00

All students will begin their normal schedules on Monday, September 14th.

8. **How is staff safety being considered? Are teachers and staff with health conditions allowed to work from home with pay? Are Long Beach schools allowing teachers to publicly express their opinions on remote vs. hybrid or in their confidence of the plan?**

Student AND staff safety is our #1 consideration. We are working with teachers who request accommodations, and are granting accommodations to the degree with which we are able and still run a smooth operation. Staff members have been a part of the Reopening Task Force, and we have had several staff meetings to address questions and concerns.

9. **Can all students still get school lunch?**

Yes. At the MS and HS levels, we will be allowing students to pick up their lunches on their in-person days for their hybrid days. In addition, we will still have meal distribution pick-up sites for students who are fully remote. All in-school meal purchases will be cashless this year, so we encourage parents to update their MySchoolBucks accounts. We will be closing off access to vending machines for sanitary purposes. High school students who do not have a “regular” lunch period will still be permitted to eat during class.

10. **How will virtual instruction look different from last spring?**
We have learned from the last few months of virtual instruction, and we will be providing an experience that has more teacher contact, a regular schedule, and more consistency. Our goal is to give students the best possible learning experience, whether in school or at home. At the middle school and high school levels, students will follow a “bell schedule,” and at the elementary schedule, students will have a regular schedule of daily direct instruction for a set time, followed by some independent learning choices.

11. How can families get Chromebooks if they are on remote instruction? Is it only one per family?
Please contact your building administrators to arrange to pick up a Chromebook if you are on full-virtual instruction and need a device. If elementary students have a personal device at home that they can use for instruction, we would ask that they use that. If any family does not have a device for each student in the family, they will be provided with one should we close completely at any point. If we go to full remote, we want each student in the family to have access to a device.

12. Will students have music, chorus, and band? Yes, and our Fine and Performing Arts department will communicate procedures for these programs.

Health and Safety

1. What is the district doing to ensure optimum ventilation and cooling in all of our buildings?
There are actually two different considerations here, as ventilation and cooling are different but related issues. Some cooling methods (like window unit air conditioners) can actually impede ventilation since they mostly recirculate room air. The “gold standard” for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is a good exchange of fresh, outside air, and that is what we are working towards in all of our buildings. In our buildings with HVAC systems and central air, we do have the MERV-13 filters that are recommended for filtration.

The District upgraded building HVAC systems over the past two years so that there is a higher level of functionality. Now, we have the ability to view through an electronic dashboard the temperature and humidity (in
areas with an air handler) in each room, then make adjustments either mechanically or manually to optimize ventilation and temperature. On very warm days, a comfortable temperature may be more of a challenge in buildings without a complete HVAC system; however, each room will have optimal ventilation. Our building mechanical air systems such as the unit ventilators, roof top units and air handlers are designed to bring in fresh air that exceeds current NYSED guidelines relating to the fresh air per person occupancy standard in a room.

In order to confirm that all our systems are optimized, bringing in more than the required amount of fresh air, we have engaged our environmental consultant, JC Broderick, to conduct cubic feet per minute (CFM) fresh air testing of all our systems and our energy performance contractor, Honeywell, to provide performance reports. The CFM confirmation tests will begin on August 17th. We will share those results with parents. Honeywell will send the district a weekly performance report for all spaces within our buildings that have “mechanical air” (forced air into a room).

In order to enhance the ventilation at East School where there isn’t a mechanical air system, we have installed two “whole house” fans in the windows at the end of the second floor hallway in order to bring outside air into the building. In addition, we installed a roof top exhaust fan to draw the warmer air up and out of the building. We also plan to open windows in the evening to allow the cooler air into the building and, if needed, keep exterior doors that lead out to the locked playgrounds open. On these particular days, we will have security / facilities staff assigned to monitor the security of our students and staff.

At West School and Lindell School we intend to use the same strategy relating to opening windows and doors on the preceding evening when the weather forecast predicts a very warm day. Security and facilities staff will also handle security during these instances. In addition, we will remove any stops on windows so that we can open them wider in the evenings. We will begin testing these strategies next week. We are in the process of testing and confirming that all the classroom fans (mounted high on the wall) are functioning properly. Windows and interior doors will remain open to allow for cross breezes and air flow.
2. Can you give us more detailed information about when children will be wearing masks? Please see our attached Mask Policy.

3. It stated on the mask document that students who can't tolerate a mask or medically can't wear a mask won't have to. how can that keep students and staff safe? In our mask policy, we tried to balance the two ends of the “mask continuum:” Everyone wearing a mask at all times all day, versus the reality that 1) some students cannot wear a mask for medical reasons and we cannot legally exclude them or force them to do so; 2) It is difficult for ANYONE to wear a mask all day every day, adult or child, particularly in the warm weather. We tried to balance both of those ideas in developing the policy. We believe that having MOST students and staff wear a mask for MOST of the day will provide a level of group protection that is adequate. We have verified this with our District physician as well.

4. What happens when there is a positive COVID case in a student or staff member? We will be following a protocol that was developed by the Nassau and Suffolk County Departments of Health (see attached).

5. What procedures are in place should students become ill (for any reason) in school? We have created isolation rooms (separate from the health office) in each of our buildings and are in the process of hiring nurses or nurses’ aides to supplement our current nursing staff. A student who is ill will be brought to the isolation room (which will have several cots, separated by dividers), and will be evaluated by the nurse and sent home immediately. We have ordered PPE equipment for our nurses, and will be following guidelines to keep our health offices clean and sterile. Students who are exhibiting any potential COVID symptoms will be carefully shielded from other students and staff until they are able to go home with a parent.

6. Should I keep my child home if they exhibit mild illness? Yes. While in the past, parents may have sent children to school with a cold or a mild cough, we are asking parents to be extra diligent this year. If your child exhibits illness of any kind, and most especially any symptoms that might be associate with COVID-19, we are asking parents to keep students home until such time as their symptoms resolve and/or they can be evaluated by
a doctor. Please see the Reopening Plan document for more specific guidelines, as well as the additional Health Department protocols.

7. **How will the District do contact tracing?** The District will cooperate with the County Health Department in contact tracing. Several of our administrators and nurses are completing a contact tracing course, and we will be following guidelines established by the CDC and the state and county health departments to identify close contacts of any positive cases.

8. **How many have opted for online learning so far?** As of today, just over 550.

9. **Will there be a COVID test required for students and staff in the beginning of the year?** No. We have not been advised that this is best practice, and to do so with all of the school staff and students in the County would potentially put a strain on the system which would make it difficult for those who do need tests to obtain one.

10. **Could/would you conduct random staff and student testing to identify asymptomatic persons. Could/would you offer frequent testing to students from high risk households?** We are not permitted to administer tests in schools at this time.

11. **I do not understand why temperatures will not be taken upon arrival to school each day.** The State guidance suggests that the best way for temperature screening to happen is for parents to do that at home, before they come in contact with other students or staff. Queuing up children to screen as they enter a building is difficult to manage, and can increase social distancing concerns. Non-contact thermometers are also often inaccurate, and some COVID patients do not exhibit a fever at all. For all of these reasons, we believe the best practice is for parents to be vigilant about signs of a fever, and to take their children’s temperature each day before sending them to school. We will be sending out frequent reminders to parents to take their child’s temperature daily.

12. **If a child can't attend school because of illness or COVID exposure will virtual learning take place until they can return?** Students in our elementary schools will be able to keep up with classroom work through Google classroom in short-term absences for illness or
quarantine. Middle School and High School students will join the virtual classes each day.

Elementary Schools

1. Is Pre-K happening?
   Yes, we will run our usual PreK sessions but the times have been altered a bit to allow for transportation needs, and cleaning and disinfection between sessions.
   AM:  8:30-11:00
   PM:  11:30-2:00

2. Is there before and after-care?
   Yes, and this year that will happen at each of our elementary schools to reduce cross-contamination. Information about the before and after care programs will be sent home soon.

3. Are the remote-only teachers current district teachers? Yes

4. Will there be opportunities for play for younger students?
   Yes! Play is an essential part of the early educational experience, and we will continue to have lots of opportunities for play and outdoor exercise.

5. Will children have access to books? Shared toys? Shared computers?
   How will outdoor play be modified? Yes. We have developed procedures for quarantining shared materials in batches to provide time for disinfection and/or virus die-off. Outdoor play will be encouraged, but students will be advised to remain socially distant, and play non-contact sports and activities.

6. What is the plan if the child (walker) arrives at 8:50 but doesn't start instruction until 9:30. What do they do? Where do they go? They will go immediately to their classroom where they will be supervised until instruction begins. During that time, they may begin follow-up activities from the past night’s reading, continue independent reading, or other activities that teachers may prescribe.

7. What does dismissal look like? Parents/caregivers usually congregate near cones in the West school yard to wait for our children's class to
come out. Varied dismissal times? Masks required? Will the playground equipment be closed off to assure social distancing. Arrival and dismissal procedures have been modified and are school-specific. Principals will communicate these procedures prior to the start of school.

8. Classroom: I realize 6 ft, but will desks be facing in one direction? Where are items such as book bags, jackets, and lunch boxes stored. Will personal belongings that move between home/school be spaced appropriately apart? Classroom layout? Desks will all face the front of the room. Personal belongings will be stored in cubbies/closets as in the past, but teachers will stagger access to maintain social distancing. We will be sharing diagrams and videos of classroom layouts prior to the start of school.

9. Bathroom: How are they monitored? Will doors remain opened? Touchless sensors for toilets/faucets? We are stationing an aide in each lavatory to ensure that no more than two students are in the bathroom at one time. We will not likely leave doors open (or at least not wide open). We have touchless sensors on most toilets, but not on most sinks.

10. What does a sample elementary virtual schedule look like?

The actual schedules would vary a bit, but would be utilized for students electing a fully virtual model, or, in the event we needed to transition to a virtual model at any point during the school year. Here is a sample:

9:10-10:40 Literacy Block
10:40-10:50 Snack/Break
10:50 - 11:50 Math Block
11:50-12:00 Break
12:00 - 12:40 Social Studies/Science
12:40 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 3:30 Flexible Independent learning opportunities posted to Google Classroom. (Zearn, IXL, Newsela, Learning A-Z, etc.), Special Area Classes (6 day rotation – pre-recoded), ENL/Special Education/Academic Support, Classroom Teacher Check-In time

*Times of blocks may be split to utilize small group instruction (Example - The Math block may be split between 3 groups to differentiate: Group 1 (10:50-11:10), Group 2 (11:10-11:30), Group 3 (11:30-11:50).
Middle School and High School

1. How does the middle school and high school schedule work? If students are in every other day, won’t they miss some classes? We are shifting the schedule and will provide a calendar to make it absolutely clear, but it will basically alternate:
   Green Day 1-Blue Day 1- Green Day 2-Blue Day 2, and so on.

2. How will the NIKE building work?
   We have moved the NIKE alternative program to the high school, where it will operate as a “school within a school.” We will use the NIKE building as a sort of “supervised study hall” for middle school students whose parents have concerns about supervision on virtual learning days. The building will be staffed by an administrator and teaching assistants who will help students stay on track with their virtual learning schedule.

3. Will extracurricular activities meet?
   Yes, but we are waiting to determine how until we get guidance on whether or not athletics can continue. In any case, we will not begin extra-curricular activities until Sept. 21, and more details about which activities are in-person (if any) and which are virtual will be sent home before then.

4. How will students access extra help?
   Students will be able access extra-help on their virtual learning days for 30 minutes twice a week. This will give our at-home students extra teacher contact on their days at home.

5. How will student desks be kept clean if students are changing classes every period?
   We are actually purchasing a cover for each student to carry with them and place on their desk at the beginning of each period.

6. Will students use lockers?
   Not at this time, since it is difficult to keep students socially distanced at the lockers. We may revisit this in the winter when students begin to bring coats, etc. to school.
Additional FAQ’s Week of August 21, 2020

Recording of parent information session 8/17, 6:30 p.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/7JYqc-Cg-jL3S4aWuQSDBKQvW9ToK6-sh3Mf8vMlzR22AXUBZFb1Y-cUZ-CH3TPTyEVIldQvcM-Bt-GL

General

1. **What if my child (2nd grader) starts going daily to school but it gets too much for them (the masks and all the CDC guidelines). Can I do virtual learning one day a week (the one day I am off from work) to give them a break each week?** Unfortunately, because the in-person and remote cohorts are totally different groups at the elementary level, it isn’t possible to do just one day of remote learning.

2. **How many students have opted for remote learning as of now?**
   As of now about 550.

3. **When will someone contact me regarding remote instruction?**
   Someone will contact you this week to confirm.

4. **Will we find out before school starts how many kids will be in my kids class? for Lindell in this case?** You can email building principals with specific questions about class sizes, but please know that we won’t be finalizing these numbers until after August 28th.

5. **I’m assuming that staff absenteeism is going to be high if people need to stay home and see a doctor if they answer yes to the questions. What is the plan if there is not enough staff to cover the classes?** This is a big concern for us as well. We are hiring some additional substitutes to cover classes when teachers are absent, and we have some other creative solutions (live-streaming if teachers are feeling well but are quarantined, for example). It is conceivable, though, that we might have a day when we would have to close a particular building because we don’t have sufficient staff. We will of course notify parents as soon as we possibly can if such a situation arises, and we hope it doesn’t!
6. **In the event that my child develops a fever and stays at home, how will he/she get instruction/lessons for that day?**

At the elementary level, they can log in to Google Classroom and get their work for the day. At the middle and high school level, they can participate in the hybrid classes. But if children are sick, we actually recommend that they rest and NOT do schoolwork!

**Health and Safety**

1. **What are the District’s procedures in the event of a positive case among students or staff?**

   Please see the attached document from the Nassau and Suffolk County Departments of Health.

2. **Is it possible to have photos of the classrooms and cafeteria areas/school so we, as parents, can get an idea of how things will look and be able to gauge the level of safety and social distancing we feel comfortable with?**

   Yes, we are working on such videos, and will publish the first of them next week!

3. **Do you have any updates for us on the ventilation testing?**

   The testing began last week, and will continue during this upcoming week. I hope to have some data to share with you next Friday. It was so cool last week that we wanted to retest some of the buildings on warmer days.

4. **A few months ago, we were worried about school shootings and had a pretty locked up school, now the doors / windows will be open?**

   The outside doors and windows may be opened during the night on warm days as a strategy to cool the building. During these nighttime airings of the buildings, we will have additional security patrol the buildings. We are not going to sacrifice security for comfort during the day, but there are some things we can do---like leaving interior doors open across hallways for cross ventilation.

5. **Is your isolation room a negative pressure room?**

   No.
6. Does the NIKE center have asbestos in it? We are looking into this because you asked, but we follow all building codes regarding asbestos abatement, so we do not believe there is any unabated asbestos in NIKE. (and honestly, no one in our facilities team has heard this question before).

7. I don’t believe in masks. What happens if my eighth grader refuses to wear one because we don’t believe in them? You are entitled to your beliefs, but school policy requires masks for the health and safety of all. If your child refuses to wear a mask, you will be required to remove your child from the in-person program and he/she will be added to the full-remote cohort.

8. Will students be required to wear their masks during instruction in the classroom? Yes, that will be the requirement. For more details, please see the document on masks.

9. How do we request a mask exemption because of a medical condition? Please complete the Google form here to request an exemption, and forward all paperwork from your doctor to the school nurse by September 8.
   https://forms.gle/TwbPf2rGfskUjnHS7

7. I am not sure if my kids will be taking the bus, if they are, what is the max capacity for the bus? Our buses currently have no more than 20-25 students routed, with no more than one student per seat (except siblings).

8. Please confirm what type of masks are to be worn. Cloth or disposable masks are acceptable. Vented masks, bandannas, neck gaiters, and scarves are not.

9. Are teachers going to be monitor students in the hallways to make sure students have their masks on? Yes.

Special Education

1. Are ICT classrooms going to be compliant with ratios of special education and general education students if they are split? Will they have the support of both the general ed and special ed teachers?
Yes, we prioritized our ICT classes for the bigger rooms in our elementary buildings so that we did not have to split them. At the secondary level, both teachers will be interacting with students in the hybrid and remote models.

2. **Are outside service providers going to be able to come to provide services for students?**
   Yes, absolutely. While outside providers will be subject to daily screening and temperature checks, they will continue to work with our students.

3. **How will small group services work, like speech or resource room?**
   These services will happen in a very similar way to the past. Students may be seated at tables with barriers, or socially distanced. Providers will wear clear masks when necessary, and will adapt activities as needed. Desk spaces will be wiped down between groups, or students may be given desk covers to bring to and from the classroom.

4. **Since we are trying to create classroom cohorts/pods where there is limited contact with other children, what controls are in place for children who are removed from the classroom for individual or small group services (ex-speech services) and then put back into the classroom environment?** These are very small groups and will have their own precautions, so mixing students back into their regular classrooms should not be problematic.

**Elementary Schools**

1. **If schools must switch to solely remote, will elementary students stay with their original cohort or will they be mixed in with the group who is already remote?** Similarly, will the kids who begin with remote learning stay with the group they are in or be mixed back in with their elementary school?

   It depends a bit on timing, but in all likelihood, we will keep students with their remote cohort/in-person cohort.
2. **What's happening with classrooms like Kindergarten that have tables and not desks?**
   For the time being, we are switching to desks (sadly).

3. **Can I confirm that elementary students do not need a rolling backpack?**
   I think I read in the Q & A that they will still be able to access their cubby and so will not need to carry everything with them. Correct? That is correct. They will have access to their cubbies.

4. **Is second grade swim cancelled this year?** Yes, unfortunately, it would provide too many opportunities for cross-contamination with students from all buildings traveling to the high school. We will double up next year so that the current second graders get swimming lessons. High school swim classes, however, can proceed as usual.

5. **Will elementary remote instruction be led by existing district teachers or persons newly hired for it?** Either way, what training and qualifications will the remote elementary teachers have for their job? We will start with district teachers to fill remote positions, but may have to hire some outside personnel as well. As with any of our new hires, remote teachers will have to be fully certified, and have excellent references. In addition, we will seek people who demonstrate a particular aptitude for remote teaching, and a willingness to provide students with a great experience.

6. **Retesting for LARC didn't happen this spring because of COVID. Is there another opportunity for retesting and potential participation this year?** Yes, we will test in September.

**Middle and High Schools**

1. **Will we allow additional MS and HS students to attend daily if the number of those opting for remote-only grows?** Potentially, yes, but we will not entertain this until school opens and we can better judge the capacity of our courses.

2. **If the HS opens to everyday for some additional students due to kids opting remote will this limit the ability for remote kids to return to hybrid model if this change seems best?** Yes, potentially, so we will have to carefully regulate changes from virtual to remote.
3. **Will you give high school seniors the priority when it comes to going back to 5 days?** As much as we would love to, and as heartbroken as we are for our seniors to miss some of their senior year rites of passage, we will likely not have enough additional openings to make any real difference for a full class. We will likely prioritize special education students if we have a few additional full-attendance spots.

4. **How are they carrying around supplies, especially 7th & 8th graders?** We will be permitting students to carry backpacks, since they do not have access to lockers?

5. **How many high school teachers have stated they will not be returning to physically teach in the fall? How many will be replaced?** Only a handful so far, but we will be finalizing this in the next two weeks. We actually have to replace them!

6. **Where will MS walkers congregate prior to class start?** Usually they are not allowed to enter the building. Students will go immediately to their classrooms upon entering the building.

**More Questions!**

**Will there be more opportunities to ask questions?**
Yes! Each Friday, I will email an updated FAQ document, and will post it on our district website, so feel free to keep sending those questions. Please send them to our District Clerk, Lori Dolan, ldolan@lbeach.org, who will compile the questions each week so we can respond to them each Friday. In addition, we will be hosting more live Q&A sessions as September approaches. We will be sending log-in information for those meetings as they approach.